



FISHERIES ADVISORY COUNCIL - A group of dedicated citizens from all regions of the state working together for fish and fishing in Connecticut.

March 15, 2011

Senator Toni N. Harp, Co-Chair
Representative Toni E. Walker, Co-Chair
Appropriations Committee
Room 2700, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Harp and Representative Walker:

The Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC) represents 31 organizations working together on behalf of fish and fishing in the State of Connecticut. The FAC also serves as an advisory council to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

At our March 10th meeting, the FAC discussed at length the projected closure of the Kensington Fish Hatchery in Governor Malloy's budget.

The Kensington hatchery is primarily an Atlantic salmon hatchery, not a trout hatchery like the Burlington and the Quinebuag hatcheries. To close this hatchery would effectively eliminate CT's participation in the Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program, and in the four state compact (CT, MA, NH VT) to which we have belonged for many years.

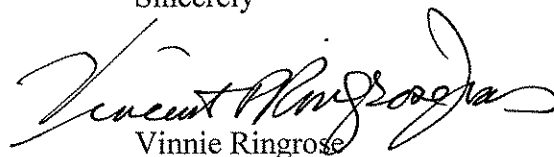
Closure would also eliminate the broodstock program, which provides large salmon for increasingly popular fisheries in the Shetucket and Naugatuck rivers and several lakes.

Finally, closure would put into jeopardy the marvelous state wide "Salmon in the Schools Program."

Let us cut or mothball some other Natural Resources program, but not this one.

Thank you.

Sincerely


Vinnie Ringrose
Chair, FAC

VR/lvf